IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A purified polypeptide that retains at least glutathione conjugating activity comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 having at least glutathione conjugating activity, and

b) an naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and has at least glutathione conjugating activity.

2. (Previously Presented) A purified polypeptide of claim 1 having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a carrier.

15. - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for screening for a molecule or compound that specially binds a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

(a) combining a polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound or molecule under suitable conditions to allow binding of a polypeptide of claim 1 to the test molecule or compound; and

(b) detecting, if present, any binding of a polypeptide of claim 1 to the test molecule or compound, ~~wherein the presence of the complex~~ thereby identifying a molecule or compound that specifically binds a polypeptide of claim 1.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for screening a molecule or compound that modulates at least the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) combining a polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test molecule or compound under conditions permissive for the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1;

b) assessing, if present, any glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test molecule or compound; and

c) comparing the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test molecule or compound with the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test molecule or compound, wherein a change in glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for screening a molecule or compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) contacting a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 with a molecule or compound, and

b) detecting, if present, any agonist activity of the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the sample.

28. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) contacting a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 ~~to~~ with a molecule or compound, and

b) detecting, if present, any antagonist activity of the glutathione conjugating activity of a polypeptide of claim 1 in the sample.